

# Bear Viewing

Driving into the heart of the rain forest visitors may come across a sow and her cubs grazing on the long grasses along the road side any time from late spring to late fall. Prime bear viewing time, however, is late summer and fall when the salmon are running in the rivers. There are large populations of both grizzly and black bears in the region, with the most sought after for viewing being the grizzly bear.



Photo courtesy BCVT/Michael Wigle

## Tours

Tours are offered by a select number of knowledgeable and experienced local, accredited Bear Viewing guides. Popular bear viewing drifts on the Atnarko or Bella Coola Rivers allow guests to float silently and watch bears and eagles feeding on wild salmon. Hiking tours with accredited guides will also take you to some of the hidden bear habitats and

show parts of the valley and the bear's kingdom few visitors encounter. Ocean adventures in the Burke Channel are also available to catch sightings of grizzlies and other wild life. Full or half day excursions are available.



Photo courtesy BCVT/Michael Wigle

## Bear Viewing Station

The newest addition for bear viewing is the Belarko Bear Viewing Station. The station, located a 30 minute drive east of Hagensborg within Tweedsmuir Park, is open mid-August to mid-October, seven days a week at select hours, and is fully staffed for your safety. Check at the Bella Coola Valley Visitor Center for hours and fees. This is a great chance to watch grizzlies and black bears splashing in the river or fishing from the rocks. Eagles soar high above monitoring their feeding grounds before diving to catch a salmon dinner in their talons.



## Bear Aware

If you want to venture out on your own then please remember:

- Never try getting a bear's attention
- Keep food in your vehicle
- Keep a safe distance from the bears, and always give way if they get close
- Keep pets on a tight leash
- Bring your camera and bear spray

For more information or seasonal details on bear viewing stop in at the Visitor Information Center on Cliff St. in Bella Coola.



Bear Viewing is sponsored by:



Bear Viewing Tours with - *Bella Coola Mountain Lodge*

*Our Bear Viewing tours offer an unparalleled opportunity to see grizzly bears feasting on wild salmon at river-level in the comfort of river drift boats and rafts led by experienced biologists and accredited Bear Guides. Accommodations and half or full day tours.*



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